

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
FORM NUMBER DATE

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED

(Please list entries - Complete applicable sections)

1. TITLE
COMMON: Tippecanoe County Courthouse
INDIAN HISTORY:

Tippecanoe County Courthouse

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Lafayette

STATE: Indiana

CODE: 47901

COUNTY: Tippecanoe

MICROFILM NUMBER:

CONC:

CONDITION	Closes Open	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous	
DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL UNKNOWN PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	
	<input type="checkbox"/> On Original Site	
THE TIPPECANOE COUNTY COURT HOUSE ON THE PUBLIC SQUARE IN LEAYETTE, INDIANA, THE THIRD ON THE SAME SITE, HAS BEEN IN USE. THE CONTRACTS FOR ITS ERECTION HAS BEEN AWARDED TO FARMAN & PEARS, A LOCAL FIRM, FOR \$207,599, BUT FARMAN DIED IN 1832 BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST FLOOR ACCORDINGLY A SECOND CALL FOR BIDS TO FINISH THE STRUCTURE. CHARLES PEARS OF THE PREVIOUS PARTNERSHIP WAS THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER AT \$241,000. WITH ERIC KAR TO BE HIS BUILDER AND JAMES F. ALEXANDER SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION. BOTH KAR AND ALEXANDER WERE LOCAL MEN.		
The architectural style of the building reflects the Neo-Classical influence of the times in its departure from the traditional classic style which had dominated American public buildings for a century or more. Its design and plans have been attributed to Elias Haze, a local contractor, but recent research indicates this may have been in error. A study of historical events end the political corruption which plagued the planning and construction phase of the building show that in the initial call issued by the Board of Commissioners for both local and non-local architects to submit plans and specifications, those of James F. Alexander, a local architect, were among those submitted. He was, however, unsuccessful in accordance of his plans.		
Alexander, a native of Lafayette, began training in architecture in St. Louis, later graduating from the University of Indiana, and returning there to practice his profession. He specialized in the use of stone in both public and domestic architecture and many of Indianapolis' finest houses erected in this period were his work.		
With the onset of the second phase of construction when the much heralded "Haze Plan" was adopted, it was discovered that identical with those earlier but unsuccessfully submitted by Alexander, except for a few minor details. One tends to conclude that Lafayette in fact originated the plan, who probably first conceived the design of this court house. His signature and his identity as a well qualified architect has been so long obscured by the indiscriminate title, "Superintendent of Construction".		
The laying of the cornerstone, conducted by the Indiana Freemasons, took place on October 26, 1832. It was a small ceremony completed in 1834, the total cost approximated \$200,000. The tower is built of a large cross, 150 feet square, with corbels from a center column, an width of the four sides. A slender dome surmounted by a 24 foot lantern and belfry, rises from its top, the whole being supported by the four diagonal corner towers. The overall height from ground level is 92 feet. Remains of one of the four clock faces in a niche containing a 9 foot female figure known as "Time Personified" remain on the four corners. Other statuary is in the original form of figures (JUPITER, THOR, HERCULES and SATURN) or the four wind gods, painted white, which rise at different levels. Those in the identical niches and roofs unknown, probably represent UNEVEN, here of the old Northwest, CHAOS, DESTINITY, and ALEXANDER, the greatest general Indian chief of Tippecanoe.		

SECTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD	<input type="checkbox"/> French Or Gothic Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century
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SEM INSTRUCTIONS

influence of the Negro in politics, and the Negro's influence in politics has been increasing. The Negro's influence in politics is now so great that it is difficult to conceive of any political party that does not have Negro support. The Negro's influence in politics is now so great that it is difficult to conceive of any political party that does not have Negro support. The Negro's influence in politics is now so great that it is difficult to conceive of any political party that does not have Negro support. The Negro's influence in politics is now so great that it is difficult to conceive of any political party that does not have Negro support.

Dr. David R. Hanes, a former member of the faculty at the University of North Carolina, has written a book entitled "The History of the Negro in North Carolina," which will be published by the University of North Carolina Press.

PAGE 2 OF PLATE 1 IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY, VOL. 2, P. 125

BY R. P. SEARS.

TIPECCANOE CO. OHIO COUNTY ARCHIVES OF INDIANA HISTORICAL RECORDS
Survey, 1941, No. 73, 21st Precise Survey, No. 210,117,113

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTIONS, 1943

S. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA			
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES			
DEFINING - NEAREST LINE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			
NAME	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LINE
NW.			
NE.			
SW.			
SE.			

APPROXIMATE AVERAGE COORDINATES PROPERTY			
LARGEST STATE AND COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED			
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STATE	COUNTY	CITY	SECTION
STATE	COUNTY	CITY	SECTION
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S. 200 ft.
EAST

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA STATE PARKS

Dr. William J. Morris
Keeper of the National
United States Park Service
National Park Service
801 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Telephone
Columbus
Corporation
Columbus
Area
Indy
7-1234

JAL 1114

As the State Liaison Officer for the National
Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I am
pleased to advise you that it has been
evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended
level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Date July 1, 1968

State Indiana

Town Tippecanoe

City Lebanon

County Tippecanoe

State Indiana

County Tippecanoe

Town Lebanon

City Lebanon

County Tippecanoe

State Indiana

County Tippecanoe

Town Lebanon

City Lebanon

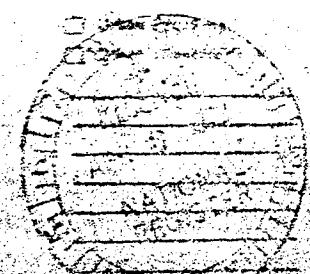
County Tippecanoe

State Indiana

County Tippecanoe

Town Lebanon

STRUCTURAL INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or Both as Appropriate) <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/> 14th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century				
SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known)				
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or Both as Appropriate)				
Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Politics <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippian <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Economy <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> History <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation				
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE				
<p>The principal building is all stone, supplemented with brick. The interior trim is wood or metal. The exterior walls of the first floor were finished in red oak, the second and third floors, all of heartwood quality. That in the basement has been painted. Window frames were made of red tallows was in red oak. Curved doors at base supported by two massive carved walnut. Only all four original doors remain. The marble tile floors were largely replaced by other present-day materials. The original iron cage in the main entrance hall is still in use, the only one left in the county. Staircases from the first floor to the second floor are located on either side of the main entrance. The iron cage is still in use, the only one left in the county. Staircases from the first floor to the second floor are located on either side of the main entrance. The iron cage is still in use, the only one left in the county. Staircases from the first floor to the second floor are located on either side of the main entrance.</p>				
<p>Beginning in 1977 an alteration was begun involving the removal of the center section of the entrance stairs at each of the four corners to provide easier access to the basement at street level. This was completed in 1978. From a time other construction has occurred, but the major alteration took place in 1960 with the reconstruction of the two-county chamber to provide additional room for transcripts and their permanent offices.</p>				
<p>The excellent style of this courthouse is due to the efforts of Tipppecanoe County Historical Society president, Dr. David R. Christianen of Washington, D.C., designer of the Indiana Statehouse. Christianen's historical and resource value was given the highest priority. Christianen utilized the architecture of the Federal period as the most influential when designing the courthouse. The design consists of a two-story square structure with a gabled roof and a prominent central tower. The tower contains a clock and a bell. The entire structure is built of limestone.</p>				
<p>Dr. David R. Christianen of the Indiana State University, Indianapolis, Indiana, designed the courthouse. The design is a combination of Greek Revival and Federal styles. The structure is built of limestone.</p>				